

Definitions

"Acquisition" means to obtain from a willing seller, fee interest or any other interest, including easements and development rights, in real property.

"Allocation" means a distribution of funds or an expenditure limit established for a Grantee for one or more projects.

"Applicant" means the local, state or federal agency, nonprofit organization, or Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe, requesting funding from a program administered by RMC.

"Application" means the individual Application Form and its required attachments and supporting documentation for grants pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or appropriate program.

"Appraisal" means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date. The appraisal statement must also be supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

"Appropriation" means a budget authorization from a specific fund to a specific agency/or program to make expenditures or incur obligations for a specific purpose and/or period of time.

"Brownfields" means abandoned, idle or underutilized land and buildings in already-developed urban, suburban or rural settings that are complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

"Buffer" refers to a physical set-back and usually including a vegetative strip intended to lessen the possibility of conflict between sensitive habitat or land uses with an existing or proposed use that has real or perceived potential for risk or harm to that habitat.

"CEQA" refers to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.; Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq. (For more information, please see <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>) A determination must be made regarding the potential environmental consequences of projects or actions resulting from these proposals.

"Competitive" means an open process available to multiple applicants and based upon stated evaluative criteria for the allocation of moneys for one or more projects.

"Common Ground" refers to the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan prepared by RMC and approved by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and by the Central Basin Water Association and the San Gabriel Valley Water Association.

"Connectivity" means continuity in open space enabling linkages between open space, and wildlife habitat areas and typically including trails and passive or active recreation nodes.

"Contract" means the agreement between the RMC, grantee, property owner, and/or mortgage lender, specifying the payment of funds for the performance of a project scope within the project performance period by the grantee.

"Contractor" means the prime person or firm that has been selected by the grantee to perform the project work.

"Development" means improvements to real property by construction of new facilities or rehabilitation, restoration, renovation or additions to existing sites, property, or facilities.

"District" means an agency of the state, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries, such as a regional park district, regional open space district, water district, conservation district, or flood control district.

"Ecological Value" means the project will support the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

"Ecological Process" refers to the direct and indirect, sum of functions, that shape and form the ecosystem. These include all biotic components and physical processes such as fire, streamflow, and watershed and stream channel functions.

"Ecosystem" means a balanced natural system of interactions between living organisms and their environment. The system of interactions between living organisms and their environment

"Enhancement" means to modify current conditions and may be used to describe a project that would result in a natural resource, cultural or historic site, recreational area or existing facility achieving a desired level of improvements while considering the protection of the natural environment. It is distinguishable from "restoration" in that it does not imply merely a return to natural conditions but may include the provision of recreation or other aspects that were not original features.

"Environmental Education" means programs and related facilities and processes that increase knowledge and awareness about the environment and help develop skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that impact the environment.

"Environmental Justice" is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, and income or education level – in environmental decision-making and actions. Environmental justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

"Exotic species" means any non-indigenous plant or animal species.

"Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe" means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for special programs and services provided by the Secretary of the Interior.

“Good Practices” refers to behavior that is safe for the user and minimizes damage to the site, its vegetation and wildlife (e.g. avoiding nesting sites, staying on trails, safe fire practices).

"Grantee" means an Applicant who has a contract for grant funds.

"Habitat Linkage" means connections between otherwise isolated areas of habitat that may (1) provide for daily and seasonal movements of animals; (2) facilitate dispersal, gene flow, and rescue effects (for animals or plants); (3) allow for range shifts of species; and (4) maintain flows of ecological processes (e.g., fire, wind, sediments, water).

"Habitat Restoration" means to restore natural vegetative communities including their capacity to provide food and shelter for wildlife, and perform natural processes including reducing the volume and velocity of runoff, and increasing the water infiltration rates.

"Historical Resource" includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, site area, place, artifact, or collection of artifacts that is historically or archaeologically significant in the cultural annals of California.

“Indigenous” A species of flora or fauna thought to have, or known to have, occurred naturally in the project area.

"Indirect Costs" means expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically with a grant, contract, project or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to the project; functions such as personnel, accounting, and salaries of supervisors and managers; and overhead such as rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

"In-Kind" means applicant's land, materials and/or services provided as matching funds for a project in lieu of monetary type funding.

"Interpretation" means an intelligent and meaningful presentation and explanation of the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

“Interpretive Materials” refers to booklets, brochures, signage, displays, or other information media etc. that are intended to explain the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

“Interpretive Program” means an organized system of information, training, preparation and dissemination of materials, etc. intended to explain the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

“Islands of Habitat ” generally means isolated areas of habitat surrounded by lesser habitat lands and with limited or no connection to other habitat areas by habitat linkages.

"Jurisdiction" means the legal boundary of the grant Applicant, i.e. the city, county, or district. A grant applicant could fall within multiple jurisdictions.

"Local Conservation Corps" means the local division of the California Conservation Corps, a state administered organization for youth volunteers to protect and enhance California's environment and communities and provide assistance in emergencies.

"Local Agencies" means a city, county, or district entity formed for purposes pursuant to a joint powers agreement between two or more local entities that are eligible for Grant Programs administered by RMC.

"Low Impact Recreation" means any development, rehabilitation, or enhancement of resource-based facilities and the associated visitor activities that result in minimized impacts on natural areas and natural systems. Low impact activities are generally human powered and may include walking, picnicking, hiking, cycling, non-motorized boating or equestrian use, bird watching, fishing, star-gazing or photography; and organized events such as interpretive tours, nature walks or educational programs.

"Management Plan" means a plan that identifies responsibility for future management of a given area to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resource values, and where appropriate, provides for multiple objectives and identifies funds for that management.

"Match" means funds or equivalent in-kind contributions in addition to RMC Grant Funds. Increased consideration will be given to projects that provide matching funds or equivalent in-kind contributions.

"Monitoring and Assessment" means an assessment process to evaluate the success of the proposed action or improvement, and monitoring progress towards meeting project goals. The standards for monitoring each project approved for funding will be developed in concert with RMC.

"Multiple Benefit" means projects that involve more than one public benefit objective including habitat enhancement or protection, water quality improvement, historic resource protection or improvement, public access development, environmental education or any combination of such objectives.

"Natural Habitat" means relatively undisturbed lands and vegetation communities that provide food and shelter for wildlife and typically also perform natural hydrological functions such as, reducing the volume and velocity of storm runoff, and enabling water infiltration.

"Natural Park" means an area intended for passive public recreation uses and which support natural habitat, wildlife and their interpretation.

"NEPA" means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Public Law 91-190, Title 42 United States Code Sections 4321-433347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, Section 4

(b), September 13, 1982). NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake, fund or approve.

“Nodes of Activity” refers to areas of concentrated human activity such as schools and plazas.

"Nonprofit Organization" for this grant application process means any private, nonprofit organization, existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation or enhancement of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic or open-space values, the protection of the natural environment, or the preservation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife or their habitat.

"Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work" means the notice completed by the grantee and filed with the county recorder in the county where the property is located, upon completion and acceptance of any and all construction work related to a project.

"Open Space" means any area that can potentially serve as wildlife habitat, facilitate natural processes, enhance scenic values, or allow for public access for passive forms of recreation.

“Permeable Surfaces” refers to outdoor surfaces that permit water to penetrate and infiltrate the soil beneath. These surfaces may include solid materials separated by voids that permit the passage of water (e.g. bricks laid on a sand/gravel base) or porous materials.

"Plans" means the detailed drawings or exact reproductions that show location, character, layout, dimensions, and details of the work to be constructed under the contract for a historical resource Project.

"Planning" means specific preparations necessary to execute eligible projects. Planning includes conceptual designs, pre-schematic work, such as initial architectural or engineering plans prepared during the preliminary project phase; schematic documents; technical consulting; construction design; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation; preparation of construction bidding documents; permits or appraisals. Planning costs are distinct from hard project costs of actual construction or land acquisition.

"Project" means the acquisition, development, (rehabilitation and restoration), or interpretation activities to be accomplished with grant funds.

"Project Manager" means an employee of RMC, who acts as a liaison with Grantees and administers grants.

"Project Performance Period" means the period of time that the grant funds are available, and the time in which the project must be completed, billed, and paid.

"Project Scope" means the description or activity of work to be accomplished on the project.

"Property" means the land, including all structures attached to such land, upon which the project is located.

"Property Owner" means the person or entity that holds the fee simple interest of the Property.

"Proposition 40" means Assembly Bill 1602 of the 2001-2002 Regular Session (Chapter 875, Statutes of 2001) as submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

"Public access" refers to public access generally with full right of way from a public thoroughfare or public transportation. It could also mean the provision for visitor support facilities, including public parking, trails, bikeways, restrooms, picnic areas and campgrounds and other recreational facilities.

"Publication" means the posting, printing and distribution of information to the public, through standard media such as journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, books and websites.

"Rehabilitation" means the act of putting something back or reinstating its original condition or near condition including features or processes.

"Restoration" means the process of reproducing, re-establishing or rehabilitating a natural area or a cultural or historical site or feature that has otherwise deteriorated due to either natural or human causes.

"Riparian" means locations and associated vegetative communities related to or on the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes or other water bodies.

"Scenic Value" means any historic, open space or other natural resource features with significant visual aesthetic values.

"Specifications" means all written directions, provisions, and requirements governing the methods and procedures to be followed in connection with bidding and awarding of contract and performance and execution of the work, the quantities and qualities of materials to be used, the method of measurement of the quantities of work, and the nature of the contractual relationships that will exist during the course of the work.

"Stewardship" means the development, implementation and long-term management of important resources and typically involving the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of natural systems and/or outstanding features, and historical and cultural resources.

"Sustainable Materials" refer to building and landscape materials that are typically manufactured from recycled materials and/or are recyclable, and when evaluated "cradle to grave," are more energy efficient and less toxic than alternative materials.

"Threatened or Endangered Species" means species listed as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act passed in 1973, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) passed in 1984, and California's Native Plant Protection Act, passed 1977

"Trailhead and Trailside Facilities" include, but are not limited to parking, utilities, restrooms, benches, bridges, draining structures, fencing, and interpretive and informational signs, exhibit and brochure shelters and related facilities.

"Urban Preserve" refers to urban open space designated to provide protection for natural habitat and associated wildlife.

"Watershed" means a region or area bound peripherally by a divide or ridge, all of which drains to a particular watercourse or body of water. Most urban sites are now mini-watersheds, with the property line constituting the "ridge" and the storm drain system located in the street constituting the "watercourse" to which it discharges.

"Watershed Process" means a natural system of interactions in the environment. (e.g., water movement, erosion, nutrient cycling) within a given watershed.

"Willing seller" means that all landowners are willing participants in any proposed real property transactions.